

2020 King County Water Taxi Facts and Figures



Mission

To provide safe, reliable, efficient, environmentally sound, customer-friendly, and fiscally responsible passenger-only ferry services to the public and establish waterborne transportation as a viable mode of transportation in support of regional mobility and a high quality of life in King County.

Agency Overview

The King County Department of Metro Transit Marine Division currently operates the King County Water Taxi. The Marine Division is responsible for the operations, moorage, and maintenance of the vessels that provide ferry services. Passenger-only ferry services are provided from Pier 50 in downtown Seattle, with service to Vashon Island and West Seattle.

Performance Metrics				
Category	Vashon Island	West Seattle	System	
Passengers Served	75,280	71,650	146,930	
Trips	2,576	5,094	7,670	
Miles Traveled	25,780	10,188	35,968	
Days of Service	252	252	504	
Service Hours	1,289	2,054	3,343	
On-Time Performance	99.2%	99.5%	99.4%	
Service Reliability	99.5%	98.3%	98.9%	

Passenger Ferry Operations

Category	Vashon Island Year-Round	West Seattle	
		Winter November through March	Peak April through October
Distance	10 miles	2 miles	2 miles
Time	22 minutes	10 minutes	10-15 minutes
Speed	28 knots	18 knots	12-18 knots
Sailings per day	6 round trips	12 round trips	12-21 round trips
Fuel (Total Gallons)	95,679	63,782	
Bio-Diesel Gallons (B20)	19,137	12,757	
Diesel Gallons	76,542	51,025	
Service	Weekdays only- morning and evening commutes	Weekdays only- morning and evening commutes	7 days per week 11-16 hours per day
Adult One Way Fare	\$6.75	\$5.75	
Vessels	M/V Sally Fox	M/V Doc Maynard	
Capacity	278 passengers	278 passengers	
Terminals (Home- Pier 50 adjacent to Colman Dock)	Vashon Terminal- adjacent to auto ferry dock leased from WSF	Seacrest Dock- leased from City of Seattle Parks	
Transit connections	Metro routes #118 and 119 on Vashon WSF Vashon - Southworth route	Metro shuttle #773 and 775 to Alki Beach and West Seattle	
Route History	WSF funded and operated 1994 through mid 2008	Argosy Cruises operated 1998 through 2009	

2020 Marine Division Notes

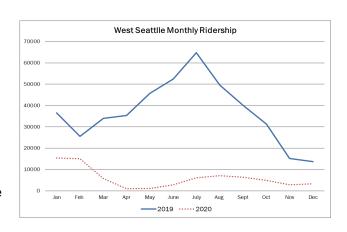
- Service reductions were in effect on the West Seattle route due to COVID.
- No mid-day or weekend services were offered during the summer schedule.

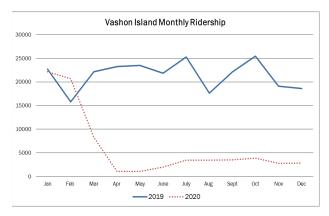
Ridership

In 2020, the Water Taxi served 146,930 passengers system wide, bringing the total passengers to over 6 million since inception of the King County Ferry District in 2008.

West Seattle Route

The West Seattle route carried 71,650 passengers in 2020 which was an 84% decrease over 2019. This decrease in ridership can be attributed to higher ridership in 2019 when we operated two-boat service to West Seattle from January through March in support of the Alaskan Way Viaduct closure as well as a decrease in ridership due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) outbreak in the United States and Washington State's Stay Home – Stay Healthy order which became effective March 23, 2020 and continued through the end of 2020.





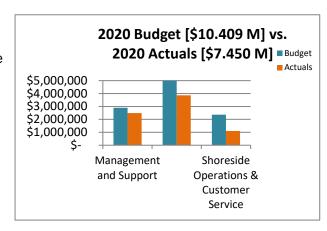
Vashon Island Route

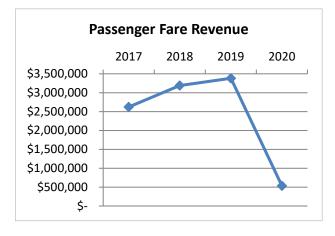
In 2020, the Vashon Island route carried 75,280 passengers, a decrease of 70% over 2019. Although the Vashon Island route has more than doubled in annual ridership since taking over the service from Washington State Ferries in 2010, the ridership on this route was also greatly affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) outbreak in the United States and Washington State's Stay Home – Stay Healthy order which became effective March 23, 2020 and continued through the end of 2020.

<u>Finance</u>

The Marine Division made every effort to reduce expenses due to the pandemic and reduction of service levels on West Seattle for the summer. Total operating expenditures were \$7,449,622, which was 28% under budget.

Passenger fare revenue fell significantly from 2019 revenue, a decrease of 84% for a total of \$534,182. This is the lowest fare revenue collections since 2008. This represents a Farebox Recovery rate of 7.2% for operations.





The primary source of fares is ORCA, the regional fare collection system, which has increased to 90% of the total fare revenue collected. Cash and ticket sales made up the balance or 10% of the total fare revenues received.